

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Our Congress leadership and the Congress Party right from the time of Panditji, we are wedded to the socialistic pattern of society. And that was the policy being followed by the late Shrimati Indira Gandhi as well as Shri Rajiv Gandhi. In the coming Policy, does the Government propose to raise the assets limits of the MRTP Companies: if so on what reasons and reasons thereof.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Hon. Member has referred to Panditji and the socialistic pattern of society. I am sure that the hon. Member is aware of the 1956 Industrial Policy Resolution with which all of us agree. We have based our new Policy on that. *(Interruptions)* Hon. Members are no doubt aware that the 1956 Resolution itself has undergone modifications in 1973, 1977, 1980 and afterwards, all of which have been endorsed by this House. Some modifications are there. But the policy is not static, the policy is dynamic. *(Interruptions)* We stand by the basic policy. We know that it is in the best interest of the country. No policy is static and if it is static it becomes out-dated. This House endorsed all such modifications. And modifications are necessary sometimes to suit the present day developments, especially the global developments.

With regard to his second question on MRTP, if the hon. Member waits for half an hour, he will get all the details.

[Translation]

Telecast of Baba Saheb Ambedkar Centenary Programmes

*125. **SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:** Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the current birth centenary year of Bharat Ratan Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar is being observed as the 'Social Justice Year':

(b) if so, the number of times programmes on B.R. Ambedkar Saheb were screened by Doordarshan during 1990-91;

(c) the number of times the programmes relating to Shri Jawaharlal Nehru were screened during his birth centenary year; and

(d) the reasons for the difference, if any?

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 202 programmes on Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar were telecast during 1990-91 by Doordarshan.

(c) 215 programmes on Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru were telecast during his Birth Centenary Year by Doordarshan.

(d) Numerical comparisons are inappropriate in such cases. Doordarshan's effort has always been to do justice to the lives and the contributions of leading Indians.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The hon. Minister has said that 202 programmes on Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar and 215 programmes on Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru were telecast by Doordarshan. I have always held that the actual facts and the ones that are projected are at variance. I have no malice towards Panditji.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question. Otherwise, we would not be able to reach the questions put by the other hon. Members.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, usually you give some time to

the Members for introduction. I want that I may also be given time for introduction before I put my question. You would recall that during the birth centenary of Pandit Nehru, his quotations could be seen everywhere, even on aeroplanes and Doordarshan. So far as I know, not even once doordarshan has bothered to show the quotations of Baba Saheb B.R. Ambedkar. Yet the hon. Minister says that 202 programmes have been telecast. When we were in the Government, we tried our best, yet we did not succeed to the extent we desired mainly due to the hindrances created by the bureaucracy. Even today I would say...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not make a speech. Please ask your question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Is it a fact that after 14th April, 1991, no quotation of Baba Saheb B. R. Ambedkar or documentary film on his life has been shown on Doordarshan? In case any such programme has been telecast, may I know the date thereof?

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say that if we start making such comparisons in these matters and divide our leaders on the basis of class, we shall achieve nothing, however great may be our reverence towards them. Birth centenary of Dr. Ambedkar which we are celebrating in the form of social justice has been extended for another year. 202 coverages relate to the first year alone. You know that elections were held after April and it takes time to produce an episode. Let me tell you that 13 episodes based on his philosophy and social work will be telecast this year from Bombay Doordarshan. Eight episodes will be telecast from Delhi Doordarshan. All the programmes that are produced this year will

certainly be telecast from Doordarshan and A.I.R. A film under the joint collaboration of Government of India and the Government of Maharashtra is also proposed. Therefore all our leaders irrespective of era or class to which they belong are equally important for us. A moment's coverage or non-coverage on television of a leader does not make him great or small. Therefore, I would once again request the hon. Members not to ask such questions.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: My questions was very straightforward that after 14th April, 1991... All leaders are equal but there are no two opinions about the fact that there has been discrimination against Baba Saheb Ambedkar and this discrimination still continues. Do not try to calm down by saying that all leaders are equal. We held Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in great reverence.

MR. SPEAKER: Paswanji, pointed question...

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I have asked a simple question. I seek your protection. Why don't you ask him to reply?

MR. SPEAKER: Pointed question....

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I had asked whether any programme on Baba Saheb Ambedkar was shown on television after 14th April, 1991, elections or no elections. I want a reply in yes or no.

MR. SPEAKER: In yes or no.

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: Five episodes—

nos. 20 to 24 — have been telecast after 14th April, 1991.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: On this question, Shri Paswan, I allow you for putting a second supplementary question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Secondly, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that during the tenure of the National Front Government a Sub Committee of Baba Saheb Ambedkar Centenary Committee was set up to function as Publicity Committee and that committee had submitted its report soon after? If so, what were the salient features of that report and what steps Government propose to take to implement them?

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: The report of the Committee is under consideration of the Government. It does not concern only I and B Ministry. Whatever work we undertake, we have to project it at the national level. The report of the committee is with us and whatever programmes are thereunder the Centenary Year are going to be telecast.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Charles.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I had asked about the recommendations.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: She says that the report has to be studied by different ministries.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: What are the main recommendations?

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want all the recommendations to be read out?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Two-three. If you ask me, I can tell you about all the recommendations.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Why are you asking them?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Charles.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Who knows, question is the same.

MR. SPEAKER: If the question you have asked suggests any solution to it.....

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Has media committee been constituted in the ministry? What are its recommendations?

MR. SPEAKER: These matters relate to another Ministry. Mr. Charles.

[*English*]

SHRI A. CHARLES: It is a fact that all of us honour our great national leaders. But quite unfortunately, I find, some of the self-projected leaders are using the national leaders for political gains. Whenever the 'Parliament News' is telecast and displayed on the T.V., all along, this august House—the seat of power of the largest democracy of the world is being shown on the T.V. Along with it, the statue of beloved Ambedkar is being shown. This was started during the Congress regime. It was stopped during the Janata regime for a few days.

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MR. SPEAKER: Are you giving the information or asking the question? Please put the question.

SHRI A. CHARLES: May I know from the hon. Minister, whether an enquiry will be conducted as to how the statue of the national leader was not shown during the Janata regime and how it was restarted; whether action can be taken against those who were responsible for showing dishonour to Dr. Ambedkar?

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: I will enquire into it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the hon. Minister will not be able to answer my question.

Therefore I would like to submit through you, to the Hon. Prime Minister that the Government have decided to celebrate the birth centenary of Dr. Ambedkar as "Social Justice Year" in order to pay tributes to him. Has the attention of the Government been invited to the book by Dr. Ambedkar, "Annihilation of caste system" which is a collection of his views regarding casteism and which is considered as one of his best books? Keeping the book in view is, there any proposal to have a serial produced and telecast from Delhi Doordarshan or Bombay Doordarshan? I would like to submit to the Hon. Prime Minister that his book "Annihilation of Caste System" relates to social justice in a different manner. Therefore merely paying tributes to him would not suffice rather the Government should ensure that the values for which he sacrificed his whole life and struggled, are not ignored. The Hon. Prime Minister may kindly tell us whether any proposal to publish his best work "Annihilation of Caste Systems" through the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting or to telecast a serial to propagate his policies is under consideration of the Government. If so, what are the details thereof?

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): It is very difficult to say whether everybody agrees that a particular book of his is the best. He was such a great writer, he was such a great constitutional pandit, he was such a great social reformer. But I agree that some of his ideals that he espoused have to be perpetuated. We have to take inspiration from them. And I take this suggestion of our revered former Speaker that this particular aspect of the annihilation of the caste system is quite fundamental to the survival of the Indian society. I would certainly personally look into the matter and see if a publication could be brought out. Publication really is not a problem. It will be brought out. But beyond that what

else could be done to project that ideal should also be seen.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in the reply that the Central Government with the collaboration of the Government of Maharashtra propose to produce a film on Dr. Ambedkar in the near future. I would like to know from him that in view of the fact that the Central Government spent crores of rupees to get a film on Mahatma Gandhi produced by a private organisation, whether the Government intends to produce on the same lines a feature film on Dr. Ambedkar of more than three hours duration? If so, how much would it cost to produce a film on Dr. Ambedkar?

KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this context I had already submitted that when hon. Shri Chandrashekhkar was the Prime Minister, he had proposed to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra to get a film produced. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra had given his consent to it. If a proposal to this effect is finalised, the production work of a tele. film would be done by the Films Division and not by a private company.

[English]

Commercial Production at Haldia Unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited

*126. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government propose to start commercial production at the Haldia unit of the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited; and

(b) if so, the time likely to be taken to start commercial production?